

CFSC APPROVED 2/19/08

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: Community Fire Safety Committee

Finding: A comprehensive wildfire protection education framework “Living With Fire” currently exists in the Tahoe Basin.

Background and Supporting Evidence: The Living With Fire program is an interagency wildfire threat reduction education program for homeowners coordinated by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The objective of the program is to encourage homeowners to accept responsibility for wildfire threat reduction to their homes and to implement the practices necessary to protect their property. Since 2001, Lake Tahoe Basin specific Living With Fire materials have been developed and distributed to Lake Tahoe fire fighting agencies, homeowners, and others. Wildfire threat reduction recommendations used in the Living With Fire — Tahoe Basin program are developed through a collaborative effort involving the Tahoe Basin fire protection districts and department, Cal Fire, USDA Forest Service, NDF, and the Universities of Nevada and California Cooperative Extension and are reviewed by TRPA to ensure compliance with their codes and policies. These recommendations are then disseminated to Tahoe Basin homeowners and others via a variety of delivery methods including publications, homeowner workshops, television programs, videos, exhibits, and a Living With Fire — Tahoe Basin specific website (www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe). For the most part, the Living With Fire — Tahoe Basin program is dependent upon annually acquired grant funds for continued operation. To increase effectiveness and sustainability of the program, the Living With Fire coordinators recommend: 1) permanent funding or long term grant funds be acquired to support the program and 2) a Living With Fire — Tahoe Basin program coordinator position be funded.

Recommendation: Support and enhance this valuable fire prevention education program and develop permanent and stable funding sources for prolong program services.

Impacts of Implementation

Cost: Living With Fire program coordinator position (salary, fringe, and some operating funds) would cost about \$85,000/year (assumes University of Nevada Cooperative Extension provides office space and administrative oversight and that additional operating funds would be generated from extra-mural sources).

Funding Source: Grants, donations, corporate sponsorship, agency funds, etc.

Staffing: A program coordinator position funded from the above listed sources and administered by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

For Commission Staff Use Only:

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Existing regulations or laws: NA

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